What is claimed is:

1. A liquid composition for preparing tissue for immunohistochemical staining, wherein the tissue is substantially embedded in a tissue embedding medium, comprising:

a removing agent for the tissue embedding medium, wherein the removing agent is adapted to substantially remove the embedding medium from the tissue during use;

a tissue activating agent, wherein the tissue activating agent is adapted, when contacted with the tissue during use, to improve immunohistochemical staining of the tissue in comparison to tissue that has not been contacted with the tissue activating agent;

water in a sufficient quantity to substantially hydrate the tissue during use;

and wherein, when the composition is contacted with tissue during use, the composition is adapted to substantially remove the embedding medium from the tissue, to improve immunohistochemical staining of the tissue in comparison to tissue that has not been contacted with the composition, and to substantially hydrate the tissue.

2. A composition for enhancing the antigenicity of a fixed, embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

A buffered solution of about .01 miles of trisodium citrate dehydrate, and about 1000 milliliters of water;

about 18.5 milliliters of SIMPLE GREEN®; and

sufficient reagent to adjust the pH to between about 6.0 and about 5.96.

3. An aqueous composition for enhancing the antigenicity of a fixed, embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising

up to about 25% by volume of surfactants;

up to 10% by weight of citric acid and alkaline citrate salts; and

sufficient concentrated acid to adjust the pH to acidity.

4. A method for using the composition of Claim 2, for preparing a fixed, embedded, dehydrated, slide mounted tissue for receipt of a stain thereon, including the steps of:

contacting the slide with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the slide from the composition; and

washing the slide in an appropriate buffer solution to remove any remaining composition on the slide.

5. A method for using the composition of Claim 3 for preparing a fixed, embedded, dehydrated, slide mounted tissue for receipt of a stain thereon, including the steps of:

contacting the slide with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the slide from the composition; and

washing the slide in an appropriate buffer solution to remove any remaining composition on the slide.

6. A method for preparing a fixed, Paraffin-embedded, dehydrated slide-mounted tissue, for the receipt of a stain thereon:

the method comprising the steps of: providing a first batch of a single liquid composition capable of substantially removing the paraffin, substantially unmasking the tissue, and substantially hydrating the tissue;

immersing the slide containing the tissue thereon in said single liquid composition for a combination of time and temperature sufficient to substantially remove the paraffin, substantially unmask the tissue, and to hydrate the tissue; and

rinsing the slide.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the single liquid composition of the providing step includes an aqueous, emulsifying solution.

8. The method of claim 7 when the aqueous emulsifying solution is a detergent and water.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the detergent of the single liquid composition is in the concentration range of between .1 and .5 percent.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the detergent of the single liquid composition is at least one one of the following: Igepal-630, Tween20, Brij 35, Brij 99, Triton X-100, CD TAB, and Tween 80.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the single liquid composition further includes an unmasking agent.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the unmasking agent is one of the following: a chelator or a buffer.

13. The method of claim 6 wherein the providing step includes the step of adjusting the pH of the single liquid solution to acidity.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the providing step includes the sep of adjusting the pH to basicity.

15. The method of claim 6 wherein the single liquid composition is biodrgarduable and non-toxic.

16. The method of claim 6 wherein the providing step includes the providing of a second batch of the single liquid composition further including the step of reimmersing the slide containing the tissue in the second batch of the single liquid composition before the rinsing step.

add B1

add C3

Add E1